



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New Orleans District

News Release

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Corps/State to release LCA Report

Selection of preferred plan postponed until public review complete

NEW ORLEANS – At the request of the environmental community, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the La. Department of Natural Resources will release to the public the Louisiana Coastal Area Comprehensive (LCA) draft report with an array of plans to restore coastal Louisiana before recommending a comprehensive plan for congressional approval in June 2004. This represents a deviation in the normal Corps procedure of providing the public with a recommended plan for review and comments as part of a draft report.

The Environmental Defense Fund, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, the National Wildlife Federation and the National Audubon Society have requested a number of coast-wide alternatives be submitted with the selection of a preliminary plan postponed following a review and discussion of the on-going planning and scientific work.

“At the request of stakeholders, we’ve decided to release the draft report without a preferred plan so that all parties can review and comment on the study alternatives,” said Col. Peter J. Rowan, district engineer, New Orleans District.

The Corps and state will take necessary steps to incorporate suggestions and comments prior to finalizing a plan selection. Identification of alternatives not previously studied will require additional analysis and, if justified, could lead to selection as the recommended comprehensive plan. Each alternative is formulated to improve benefits to the national economy and to the environment. Selection of plans is based on four criteria – completeness, efficiency, effectiveness and acceptability.

ADD 1 – LCA Report Release to Public

The 2,000-plus-page report consists of a summary and main report, programmatic environmental impact statement, and technical appendices. Technical appendices will include information describing engineering, environmental, real estate and economic analysis.

Public review will run for 45 days following release of the LCA Report in October. At that time, the report will be available on the Web site at www.coast2050.gov and on compact disk at local libraries. The CDs can be requested through the Web site, or by calling Howie Gonzales, project manager, at 504-862-1672, or Julie Morgan, outreach coordinator, at 504-862-2587.